

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 ACDA-10 OMB-01 EUR-12 /104 R

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DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:JS

APPROVED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS

EA/VN-MR.BARTLEY

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R 251356Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

CMDR JCRC THAI

CINCPAC

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

UNCLAS STATE 066798

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN, LA, CB

SUBJECT: PW/MIAS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WASHINGTON STAR EDITORIAL MARCH 21,
1975:

"NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, WHO LIKE TO CALL THEM-
SELVES HUMANITARIANS, ARE BEING CRUEL ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF
IN THEIR HANDLING OF INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICANS MISSING IN
ACTION.

IT IS WITHIN THEIR POWER TO END FORTHWITH THE UNCER-
TAINTY AND ANGUISH THAT HAS BEDEVILED THE FAMILIES OF 1300
MIAS FOR TOO MANY YEARS . YET THEY ARE MILKING THE ISSUE
FOR EVERY CONCESSION THEY CAN GET FROM THE UNITED STATES
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THAT WOULD MAKE THEIR GOAL OF TAKING OVER SOUTH VIETNAM

EASIER.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE INFORMATION ON MANY, IF NOT MOST, OF THE MIAS. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAY THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG REPRESENTATIVES ACKNOWLEDGED THIS "SOME TIME AGO" TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES. THE LATEST INDICATION WAS IN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAM'S FOREIGN MINISTER, NGUYEN DUY TRINH, AND SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY.

AFTER PIOUSLY REFERRING TO THE "HUMANE SPIRIT" THAT IS

GUIDING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THEIR EFFORTS "TO HELP EASE THE ANGUISH OF THE FAMILIES OF THOSE STILL CONSIDERED MISSING," TRINH MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO INFORMATION WOULD BE RELEASED UNTIL THE UNITED STATES FORCED SOUTH VIETNAM PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU OUT OF OFFICE AND HALTED MILITARY AID TO THE SOUTH. SO MUCH FOR THE "HUMANE SPIRIT."

TWO WEEKS AGO, NORTH VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVES IN SAIGON TOLD A VISITING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING DELEGATION THAT AN ACCOUNTING OF MIAS WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE 1973 PARIS ACCORDS HAD BEEN FULLY CARRIED OUT. THIS COMES FROM A DUPLICITOUS COMMUNIST REGIME THAT HAS VIOLATED THE ACCORDS FROM THE BEGINNING.

CHANCES ARE THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE MIAS ARE DEAD. BUT THE FAMILIES OF AMERICAN MISSING CANNOT BE SURE UNTIL THEY GET THE TRUTH FROM THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW -- THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD AN OUNCE OF THE HUMANITARIANISM THEY PRETEND TO HAVE, THEY WOULD END THE SUSPENSE AND AGONY BY RELEASING THE FACTS IMMEDIATELY."

END OF TEXT.

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